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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE   | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR                | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.    | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 10/575,545  | 05/02/2007    | Hermanus Franciscus Maria van Meijl | 59070US007             | 8932             |
| 32692   | 7590          | 07/01/2008                          |                        |                  |
| 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY<br>PO BOX 33427<br>ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427 |               |                                     |                        |                  |
|   |               |                                     | EXAMINER<br>VU, HIEN D |                  |
|   |               |                                     | ART UNIT<br>2833       | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |               |                                     |                        |                  |
| NOTIFICATION DATE   | DELIVERY MODE |                                     |                        |                  |
| 07/01/2008  | ELECTRONIC    |                                     |                        |                  |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

LegalUSDocketing@mmm.com  
LegalDocketing@mmm.com

|                              |                                      |   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/575,545 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>VAN MEIJL ET AL. |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Hien D. Vu        | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2833                 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2008.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 25-41 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 25-41 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature "the mating connector component allowing alignment of the first contact elements with mating second contact elements of the mating connector component prior to their making mechanical contact with each other" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. Claims 25-41 are objected to because in claim 1, lines 6-9, the features "the mating connector component allowing alignment of the first contact elements with mating second contact elements of the mating connector component prior to their making mechanical contact with each other" are unclear as to how the mating connector component could allow alignment of the first contact elements with mating second contact elements of the mating connector component prior to their making mechanical contact with each other" since such features are not clearly shown in the drawings.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

4. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 25-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Frantz (5219301).

Insofar as the claims can be understood, as to claim 25, Frantz, Figs. 1-15 show a connector shell 6, 12,14 for a connector component of a connector arrangement for a wire cable 6 comprising: a housing 20 including first contact elements 30, the housing being provided with at least one first guiding element 18 having an axis for guiding the housing along a Frantz shows second guiding element 210 of a mating connector component 204 of the connector arrangement upon coupling with the mating connector component allowing alignment of the first contact elements with mating second contact elements of the mating

connector component prior to their making mechanical contact with each other, and at least one fastening element 16 associated with the at least one first guiding element and substantially aligned with the axis of the at least one first guiding element for engagement with the second guiding element of the mating connector component.

As to claim 26, Frantz shows the fastening element is secured to at least one of the housing and the at least one first guiding element of the housing.

As to claim 27, Frantz shows the fastening element extends through a passageway 194 formed in a portion of the at least one first guiding element of the housing for engagement with the second guiding element of the mating connector component.

As to claim 28, Frantz shows the passageway is axially aligned with the at least one first guiding element.

As to claim 29, Frantz shows the fastening element comprises a shaft 199 extending through a passageway formed in a portion of the at least one first guiding element of the housing, the shaft comprising a head and a thickened portion both located outside of and adjacent to opposite ends of the passageway.

As to claim 30, Frantz shows the fastening element is axially movable within the passageway by a distance defined by the abutment of each of the head and the thickened portion of the fastening element to the respective opposite ends of the passageway.

As to claim 31, Frantz shows the at least one first guiding element comprising a receiving channel for receiving the second guiding element of the mating connector component.

As to claim 32, Frantz shows the receiving channel comprises a receiving opening and an end arranged opposite thereto and through which the passageway for the fastening element extends.

As to claim 33, Frantz shows the housing comprises two first guiding elements 18 at opposite sides of the housing and wherein to each first guiding element a fastening element is associated.

As to claim 34, Frantz shows the second guiding element of the mating connector component comprises a receiving portion 212 for receiving a portion 202 of the fastening element associated to the at least one first guiding element for fastening the housing to the second guiding element of the mating connector component.

As to claim 35, Frantz shows the receiving portion comprises a receiving bore 211.

As to claim 36, Frantz shows the receiving portion comprises a receiving pin.

As to claim 37, Frantz shows the connector comprising at least one second guiding element along which the at least one first guiding element of the housing of the connector shell is guidable, the second guiding element comprising a receiving portion for receiving a portion of the fastener element of the connecting shell.

As to claim 38, Frantz shows the receiving portion comprises a receiving bore.

As to claim 39, Frantz shows the receiving portion comprises a receiving pin.

As to claim 40, Frantz shows the connector further comprising a housing and/or a face plate 208, in particular a backplane to which the at least one second guiding element is attached or attachable.

As to claim 41, Frantz shows the connector further comprising at least one electrical contact element to be electrically connected to a contact element of the connector shell 12, 14.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 25-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

*/Hien D. Vu/*

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2833

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|---|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Application Number</b><br> | <b>Application/Control No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination</b> |
|   | 10/575,545                     | VAN MEIJL ET AL.                               |
|   | <b>Examiner</b><br>Hien D. Vu  | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2833                        |